5: Roth E-4 (no date) 1892 OC6 Iban OC6

302 all weathers, together with hard work out of doors as well as in
[301] doors. Flowers are worn in the hair as ornaments—red and green being the favourite colours.

The men dress their hair in a variety of ways. The genuine Ulu Ai fashion is to let the back hair grow long and flowing, and to keep the front either shaved or close cropped. The Ngkasi style is to shave in front and to keep the back hair close cropped, to shave again across the back of the head but to leave two parallel rows of hair and a tiny lock beneath them in the centre. The Kyan method of dressing the hair is, however, fast becoming the fashion among the dandies of all the tribes, *e.g.*, to permit the back hair to flow to its full length over the shoulders and to grow the front hair over the forehead long enough to form a Grecian fringe. When it is inconvenient to have the back hair streaming over the shoulders, they twist it and tuck it carefully into the turban.

Depilation.—The prejudice in favour of a smooth face is so strong that in the whole course of my experience I have never met with a single bearded or moustached Sea-Dyak, although it cannot but be manifest to a close observer that were they only so disposed they could produce a thicker crop than the Malay. This is evident especially in the case of old men and chronic invalids who by reason of age or infirmity have ceased to care much about their personal appearance and whose chins are rough in consequence with a bristly growth. The universal absence of hair upon the face, on the chest, and under the arm-pits would lead the superficial observer to infer that this is owing entirely to a natural deficiency, whereas it is due in great measure to systematic depilation. *Chunam*, or quick lime,
[823] is frequently rubbed into the skin so as to destroy the vitality
[413] of the follicles. The looking glass and tweezers are never out of the hands of the natives, and they devote every spare moment to the conscientious plucking out of stray hairs. It is likewise the fashion for both sexes to shave the eyebrows and pluck out the eyelashes. The growth upon the pubes in both sexes is often copious enough—some few Loweas object to even this, and either crop it close or remove it altogether. Female Dyaks eradicate the hair off the *lubia pudenda*. I know a Malali at Kanowit who is bearded from ear to ear, and when he shaves, which is every now and then, his chin and cheeks are quite blue; he was a Mentuari of unmixed blood.

302 The Undups regard it as provocative of headache to throw
753 their refuse hair into the fire or into the water. It may be cast
426 on the ground or tossed to the winds; it is still better to bury it in the earth.